

(e) said bottom end of said toothpaste tube is sealed in a conventional manner prior to standard packing and shipping through the conventional toothpaste marketing channels as well as given away by dentists to encourage using new bristle toothbrushes regularly.

7. A disposable toothpaste dispensing toothbrush as defined in claim 8 further comprising a plastic cover which is of an elongated tubular shape for covering said toothbrush head section, wherein said tubular cover has a cover opening and an opening rim, and wherein at least one boss is formed on and along an inner periphery of the opening rim so that the opening rim can be detachably fitted onto the toothbrush cover retaining ring fixably attached to the top external surface of said toothpaste tube whereby air trapped within said cover offers a resistance to accidentally flowing paste onto brush during shipping, handling or travel and prevents paste from drying when exposed to the air for extended periods of time.

REMARKS – General

Applicant has rewritten all claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly and define the invention patentably over the cited prior art.

The References And Differences Of The Present Invention Thereover

Applicant will discuss the references and the general novelty of the present invention and its unobviousness over these references.

The Rejection of Claim 1 on Vidovic Is Overcome

- (1) Vidovic discloses a refillable liquid dentifrice dispensing toothbrush, not a disposable toothpaste dispensing toothbrush fixably attached to a small toothpaste tube of sufficient size such that the paste supply expires at the same time as the bristles become ineffective, as in Applicants invention. Vidovic has a refillable reservoir not a disposable tube and is not thrown away when its supply is extinguished, but refilled and continued in use.
- (2) Vidovic's head channel and handle channel are liquid dentifrice channels to a liquid dentifrice reservoir, not to a toothpaste tube. These channels are inserted with an

absorbent foam rubber material that causes the liquid to migrate towards the head when a valve between the reservoir and the handle is opened. The Applicant's invention shows open channels that allow paste material to be forced along the channels towards the head by applying pressure to the body of the tube, which acts as an extension of the handle, without the capillary action of the Vidovic foam rubber insert.

- (3) Vidovic does have a cover with a snap ring to keep the brush clean during travel and a shut-off valve to keep the liquid dentifrice from migrating out to the brush when not in use. The Applicant's invention does not have a valve to stop the paste from flowing down the handle channel when pressure is applied to the tube; its cover is to protect the paste from being forced out in shipping, handling or travel.
- (4) Finally, Vidovic solves a different problem than the Applicant's invention. Vidovic is targeted to allow brushing of teeth where a water supply is not readily available utilizing a liquid dentifrice and being portable enough to carry in lipstick or lighter size packages. The Applicant's invention is targeted to providing an inexpensive disposable paste dispensing toothbrush with fixably attached small tube of paste that will encourage use of a new more effective brush each time the small attached toothpaste supply is used up, better dental hygiene because the toothpaste supply is not shared by multiple brush users and easy use by a person with the use of only one hand.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that the claims define patentably over the prior art and that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action the applicant respectfully solicits.

Very respectfully,



Frank D. Lachenmaier
Patent Attorney # 48,157
PO Box 1047
Kokomo, IN 46903-1047
E-mail: flachenm@aol.com
Telephone: 765-456-3827
Fax: 765-456-3839